The Carolina Farmer

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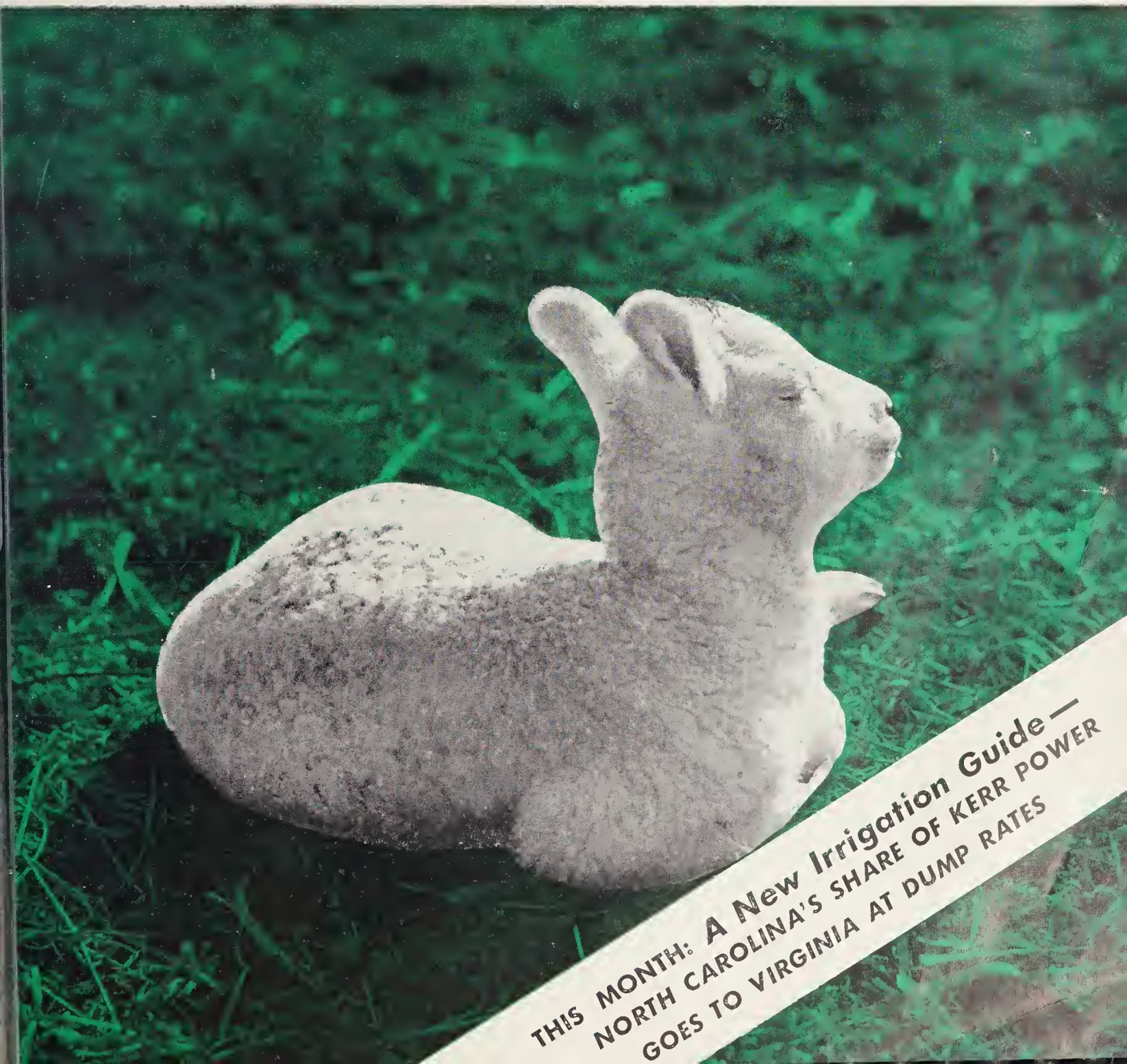
★ NORTH CAROLINA'S RURAL ELECTRIC MAGAZINE

20 years of progress

MAY, 1955



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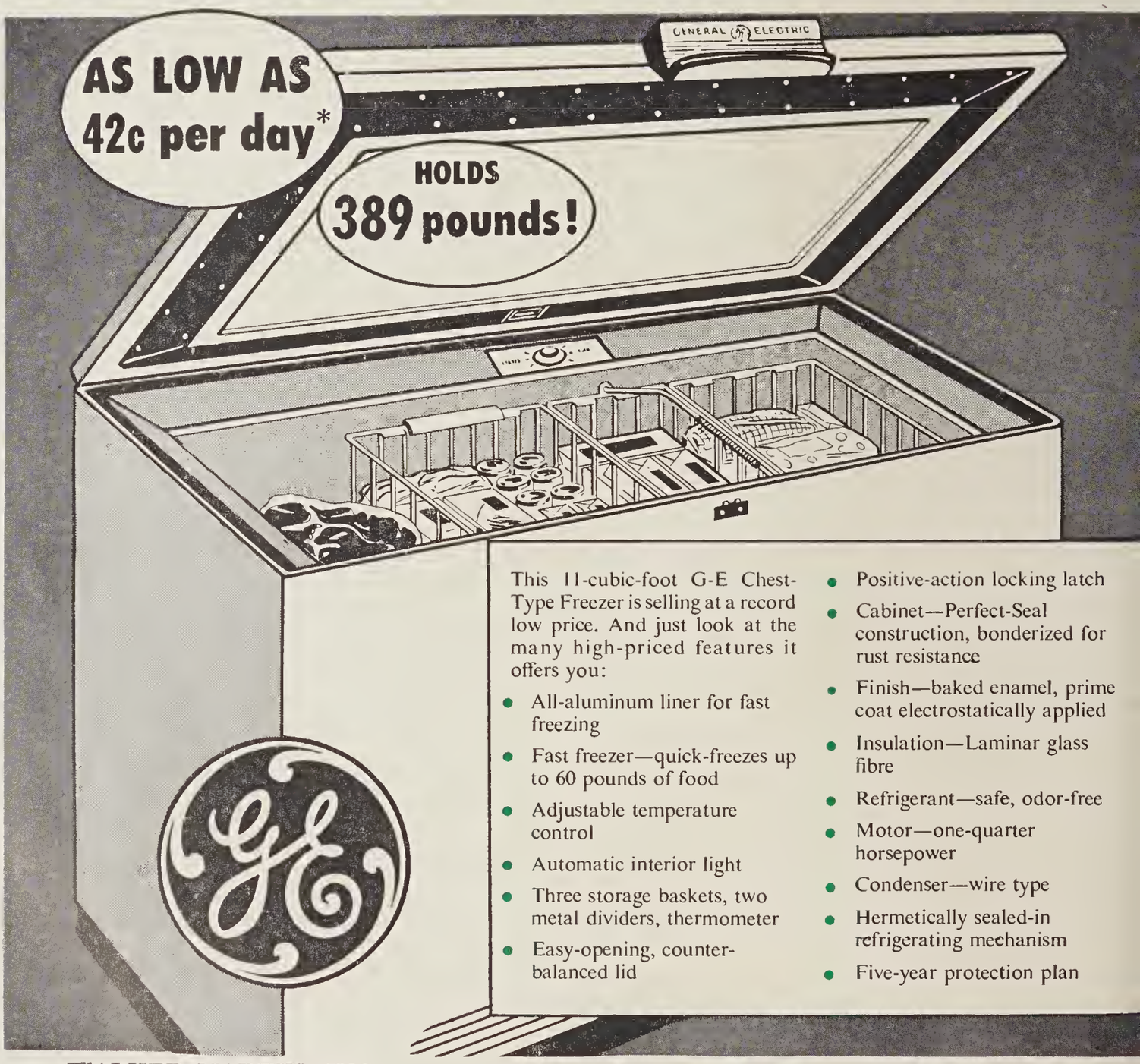

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GENERAL ELECTRIC

the Carolina Farmer

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JERRY ANDERSON, Editor

REBEKAH RIVERS, Assistant Editor • LYNN BRUNSON, Editorial Assistant

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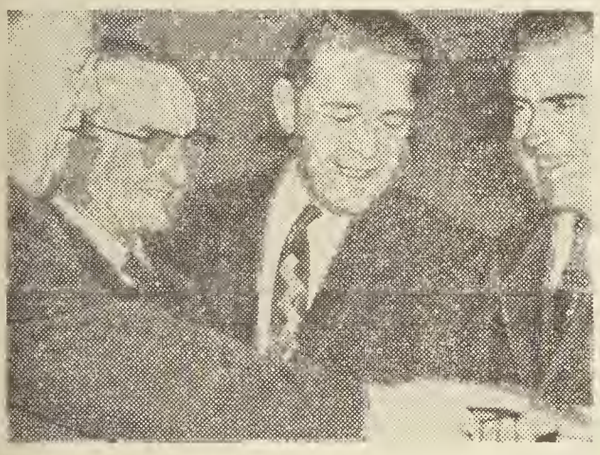
FACING FACTS . . .

Last month a rural electric co-op out in Indiana paid off all its REA loans—a laudable and newsworthy event. To let everyone know about it, a suitable luncheon was arranged, featuring nice speeches by Congressmen and REA Administrator Ancher Nelsen.

A few days later, REA sent out a news release about the co-op's achievement. Clipped to the release was the photograph below, which shows four beaming men looking at the co-op's final check.



And who is that proudest-looking man? The one on the right? None other than Vice President Nixon himself. Never having identified Mr. Nixon as a co-op crusader before, the photo intrigued us. Maybe there was some mistake? Nope. There he stood, big as life, right beside Administrator Nelsen.

Well, then, we thought, maybe we've been misjudging Dick Nixon all these years. With the happy feeling you get when you discover someone really does care for you, we looked up his voting record on REA matters while he was in the Senate. It was sort of disheartening. Not one record vote had been favorable. And a couple of the unfavorable ones hit pretty close to home, such as the ones to restrict continuing funds for the agency that is supposed to be marketing Buggs Island power (See page five).

Well, how about that happy gentleman on the left? That's Senator Capehart of Indiana. Never once in his long Senate career has he cast a record vote favorable to rural electrification.

We're glad these two men are so proud of their achievements in this field. And someone should be congratulated for rounding them up for a picture on this happy occasion.

—JERRY ANDERSON

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Photo by Grant Hielman

Well, now—That's just about the snootiest creature we've come across lately. But to tell you the truth, we always feel like saying "Tsk, tsk" and shaking our head a little when we see a look like that on an animal—human or otherwise. Take this little beauty, for instance. You think he ever heard of things like lamb chops and mutton stew? But anyway, having established the point that ignorance may be bliss, don't you think he's kinda cute?

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Tarheel FARMING

A Digest of the Month's Most Significant Farm News

Fertilizer Bag Sizes Set

The State Board of Agriculture recently voted to establish five standard sizes of fertilizer bags and to amend a regulation relating to the use of urea in mixed dairy feeds. The board authorized the following sizes by weight capocity for the sale of commercial fertilizer: 200 pounds, 167 pounds, 125 pounds, 100 pounds, and 50 pounds. These sizes have been in accepted use in the state for some years. The group declined a request of one company for permission to use an 80-pound bag, but said it would be glad to reconsider the 80-pound bag at this year's grade hearings. The amendment to feed regulations increases slightly the maximum amount of urea and ammoniacal nitrogen permitted in dairy feeds, but it circumscribes their use with limitations on the fiber content of such feeds.

No Change for Soybeans

The USDA has announced that there will be no change in the official U. S. Grain Standards for soybeans with respect to class definitions. The proposal with respect to classes provided for a change in the definition of yellow and green soybeans. This change was strongly opposed by North Carolina growers. They said the change would place a penalty on the Ogden variety of soybeans, which accounts for about 4,000,000 bushels or 80 per cent of the state's total crop. Growers sent John Winfield, head of the Division of Markets of the State Department of Agriculture, to Washington where with members of the state's Congressional Delegation, he conferred on the matter with USDA officials. Immediately after this, the department made its announcement, advising that further study would be given the proposals.

Fall Feeder Cattle Sale

Laurel Hill and Pembroke Feeder Calf Sales will now be combined into one large sale. The first consolidated sale will be held on Wednesday, September 21 in Laurel Hill, and future sales will alternate between the two towns. Committee members suggest that the sale will afford cattle producers an opportunity to sell their spring output at one time, and for the market price of feeder cattle. Price received during the 1953-54 sale was approximately eighteen cents per pound. Two changes have been made in the rules: Arrangements will be made to have heifers tested for Bangs as they are weighed in and the cattle will be assembled, weighed and graded the day before the sale.

Blue Mold Returns

Blue mold is threatening the state's young tobacco crop for the 23rd straight year. The dangerous tobacco plant bed disease was discovered in Columbus County on March 19. This was the first reported appearance of blue mold this year, and farmers should begin plant bed treatments at once. Extension specialists recommend two applications a week (and after each rain) of Experiment Station recommended ferbam or zineb fungicides.

Farm Aid Bill

The U. S. Senate passed late last month a bill which would permit the Secretary of Agriculture to hike farm acreage allotments on controlled crops in cases where the original crops were wiped out by disaster. The bill would authorize and direct the Secretary to increase acreage allotments on tobacco, cotton, corn, peanuts, rice or wheat to individual farmers when drought, flood, hail, frost, freeze, wind, insect infestation, plant disease or other such cause create conditions which make it impossible for a farmer to provide a livelihood for his family. The bill has now gone to the House.

LEGISLATURE ENACTS EGG GRADING LAW

The General Assembly has enacted a new egg law which requires that, with few exceptions, eggs offered for sale in North Carolina be sold on the basis of official grades and sizes unless they are plainly designated as "ungraded." It will be several months before regulations and machinery are developed for its administration. The new law embraces the following: The State Board of Agriculture is directed to "establish and promulgate such standards of grades and weight classes for eggs to be sold or offered for sale in this State as will promote honest and fair dealings in the interest of the poultry industry and the consumer." The board is authorized to assess an inspection fee on distributors not exceeding one-fifteenth of a cent a dozen, the proceeds to be used by the commissioner to pay the expenses of administering the new law. The law requires distributors to supply retail dealers, cafes and institutional users with invoices showing the grade of eggs delivered to them, or indicating the eggs are ungraded. Eggs sold to the public shall be properly designated by grade and size or marked "ungraded." The law prohibits false and misleading labels, and bans the use of such words as "fresh", "nu-laid," "country," "day-old," etc... Producers and those who buy and sell hatching eggs exclusively are exempted from all provisions of the law... Bona fide shipments of eggs in inter-state commerce are also exempted.

VEPCO Buys Kerr Power at "Dump" Rates

Government is losing $2400 a month by selling North Carolina's co-ops' share of Buggs Island power to Virginia utility at give-away rates. Wheeling contract is stalemated

Sixty-thousand kilowatts of electric power started "going to the dump" from the Federal Government's John H. Kerr Dam in Virginia on May 1. As a result, one-third of the total capacity of the big dam at Buggs Island near the North Carolina line is now being sold at a give-away price.

These are the same 60,000 kilowatts which have been allocated to North Carolina, and which North Carolina rural electric co-ops are entitled to buy under the law. Instead, they are being sold as "dump energy" to a commercial power company in Virginia—the Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO).

As "dump energy," the power goes to VEPCO on a day-to-day basis for only 3/10 of a cent per kilowatt hour. In contrast, the government could sell the power to 14 North Carolina rural electric co-ops for 7/10 of a cent per kilowatt hour.

Thus the government now is losing $2400 per month by not selling Kerr Dam power to the lawful buyers.

This puzzling situation is the result of the long stalemate in marketing arrangements for the North Carolina co-ops. Under the law, the Federal power must first be offered for sale to non-profit distributors such as electric co-ops and municipalities. This law is known as the "preference clause."

The Kerr Dam produces 180,000 kilowatts of power. Seventeen co-ops in North Carolina and several in Virginia are eligible to buy it. All of them want to buy their share.

But the power must somehow be delivered to the co-ops before they can use it. Under the law, the Department of Interior is responsible for arranging for such delivery.

At first, Interior proposed to build transmission lines to get the power to co-op load centers. But in the early days of the Kerr project, two commercial power companies had built lines to the dam—VEPCO, in Virginia, and Carolina Power and Light Company (CP&L), in North Carolina.

These companies vigorously opposed the Federal transmission lines, arguing that they would simply duplicate the ones they had already constructed. CP&L President L. V. Sutton flatly told a Senate sub-committee that his company would "wheel" Buggs Island power to the North Carolina co-ops over existing CP&L lines.

Transmission Line Killed

That was four years ago. The transmission line was killed. Negotiations with CP&L have failed to produce a "wheeling" contract.

The Virginia co-ops, and five of those in Northeastern North Carolina, have fared better. They are in the territory of VEPCO, and that company DID follow through and sign wheeling contracts. As a result, the co-ops have saved over $340,000 in wholesale power costs. The 14 co-ops in CP&L territory estimate that they have lost $240,000 because of CP&L's unwillingness to sign a similar agreement.

Now, because of the "dump energy" development, the government also starts taking a loss.

This loss results from a contract the government has with VEPCO for "firm" power. At times, especially during long dry periods, the Kerr Dam will not produce all of its total capacity of 180,000 kilowatts. At these times, the government buys supplemental power produced in steam plants from VEPCO to keep the 180,000 kilowatts "firm" or constant.

Since the 60,000 kilowatts allocated to North Carolina were not being used, the government has been using them to "firm" the power it has been selling in Virginia. VEPCO has been in agreement with this arrangement.

But about April 1, VEPCO served notice on the government that in the future it would insist its contract for supplemental power be observed, and that it sell the government whatever "firm" power is needed.

That leaves the government with 60,000 kilowatts on its hands. Beginning May 1, it had to start "dumping" this

(Continued on Page 24)

DREAMING OF HOME IMPROVEMENTS?

Make a New Myers WATER SYSTEM the Heart of your Plans

● Planning to add a bathroom? Remodel your kitchen? Get a dishwasher or automatic laundry equipment?

Whatever your plans, be sure you don't overload your water system. Let our water service experts check your ideas. We can save you expensive changes later on.

When it's time to buy your new water system, depend on us for the kind of installation that insures long trouble-free operation. And you can depend on us for fast service whenever you need it.

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or
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Charlotte

MAIL BOX

To the Editor:

We live on the foot of a high mountain. We have tried twice to install a TV set, but have failed each time. The picture fails to show and becomes mixed and confused. Our neighbors near this mountain have the same trouble, while others ¼ mile away get good results. Also our radio stations become mixed and confused.

Have you any idea what our trouble can be? This mountain is known to have mineral (manganese). Could the presence of mineral (maybe uranium) cause this trouble? Will appreciate reply.

We receive the *Carolina Farmer* regularly and like it very much.

R. A. LONON
Marion, Rt. 3

The experts we've consulted seem to feel that the trouble comes from the mountain itself, not the minerals in it. A high mountain lying in a direct line between the transmitter and house may cause interference. A competent television serviceman can often use instruments to probe for a spot where an antenna can be located for good reception.
—EDITOR.

To the Editor:

I have been following every news item concerning the Hoover Commission's Task Force report, and so it was with particular interest that I read the article in the March issue of the *Carolina Farmer,* entitled, "The End of REA?" Yours is the most comprehensive article I have read to date.

I have wondered for some time now what we as individuals could do to protect our interests. Your editorial in the same issue solved that problem and I have today mailed the three letters, as you suggest, a copy of which is enclosed for your perusal.

It is information on matters such as these, which are so vital to REA consumers, that make the *Carolina Farmer* increasingly important to us.

Elizabeth B. Hackett
Belhaven.

The letters referred to are those CF asked its readers to write to the two Senators, and their Representative. Following is a copy of Mrs. Hackett's letter to Senator Scott:

Dear Senator Scott:

We have been reading avidly everything that is being published concerning the REA section of the Hoover Commission's Task Force report. We find only an occasional item about it, but that little bit is startling to us who are REA consumers of electricity and who, in another month or so, will be the proud users of an REA telephone.

It is inconceivable that anyone could desire to so utterly destroy that program which has electrified ninety-four per cent of rural America at a time when private companies were refusing to do so. Surely no member of the Task Force has ever borne the hardships of a farmer without electricity; and yet, anyone of them must have enough imagination to know what his life would be like without it and he could multiply that many times to know the plight of the farmer without it. Obviously they do not have in mind the welfare of the man most involved in this matter and therein lies the tragedy of this report.

We have no way of knowing whether these recommendations will ever reach Congress, but if they do, we have enough faith in that august body to know that our interests will be protected—we hope so overwhelmingly that the American public will know and long remember that nothing as worthwhile as REA can ever be downtrodden no matter what the effort to the contrary is made by private interests.

Mr. and Mrs. William M. Hackett

To The Editor:

I have enjoyed the *Carolina Farmer* from the first issue I received, but this last one really inspired me to call a taxi, go to town and buy myself an electric range. I am thrilled with it beyond words, and you deserve the credit. I thank you for the inspiration. I am 86 and a real dirt farmer, and live alone. But I am just as interested in life as ever, and pay no attention to years as they come and go.

Mrs. H. R. Way

Belhaven

To the Editor:

I just don't know how I would manage if it weren't for our electric membership corporation (Blue Ridge). It has enabled us to put water in the kitchen—a great necessity since I am not able to carry it anymore.

Mrs. J. G. Joines

Stratford

200 Attend Dinner for N. C. Lawmakers

Anson Farm Couple Highlights Program

Some 200 directors, managers, and attorneys, representing North Carolina's thirty-two electric membership corporations, were on hand to greet the State's Congressional Delegation at a dinner held at the Walnut Hill Lodge, Falls Church, Virginia, on April 20. Eleven of the State's 14-man delegation attended the annual affair, sponsored by the Tarheel Electric Membership Association "to honor the Congressional Delegation and bring them up to date on the problems of rural electrification."

The guests were welcomed to the dinner by James A. Ward, TEMA's president and vice-president of Four County Electric at Burgaw. Representative C. B. Deane, of the 8th Congressional District, responded for the delegation. He praised the progress of the rural electrification program, and cited the outstanding repayment record of electric cooperatives not only in North Carolina, but in the nation as a whole.

Lees Tell Farm Story

One of the featured highlights of the evening's program was an Anson County farm couple, who told the story of the benefits of electricity on their farm and in their home. Mr. and Mrs. Ray T. Lee, charter members of the Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation at Wadesboro, used colored slides to illustrate how they put electricity, their cheapest farm labor, to work.

Mrs. Lee closed her pictorial account of "What Electricity has Meant in My Home" by summarizing: "It has meant a new way of life for us."

Mr. Lee concluded the tour of his Anson County farm by cautioning his audience that "farming has come a long way during the past 20 years. But for some time most farmers have seen their income fall off while their costs are going up. For this reason, I don't believe this is the time to curtail any of the great services which have bolstered the farm program."

The principal address of the evening was delivered by TEMA President Ward, who issued a call for help in obtaining Buggs Island power and recommended that Congress reject the Hoover Commission report on REA.

The Rose Hill farmer said that twelve

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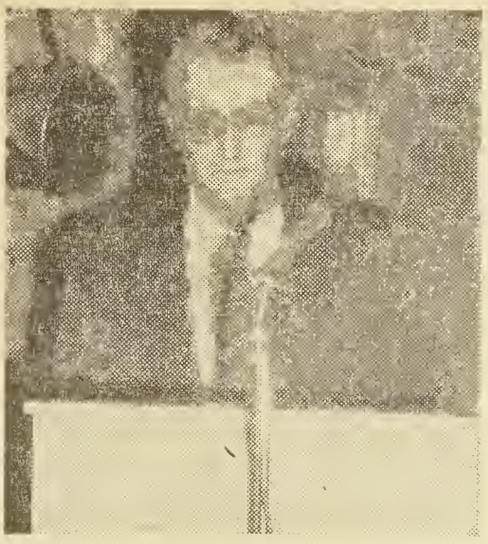
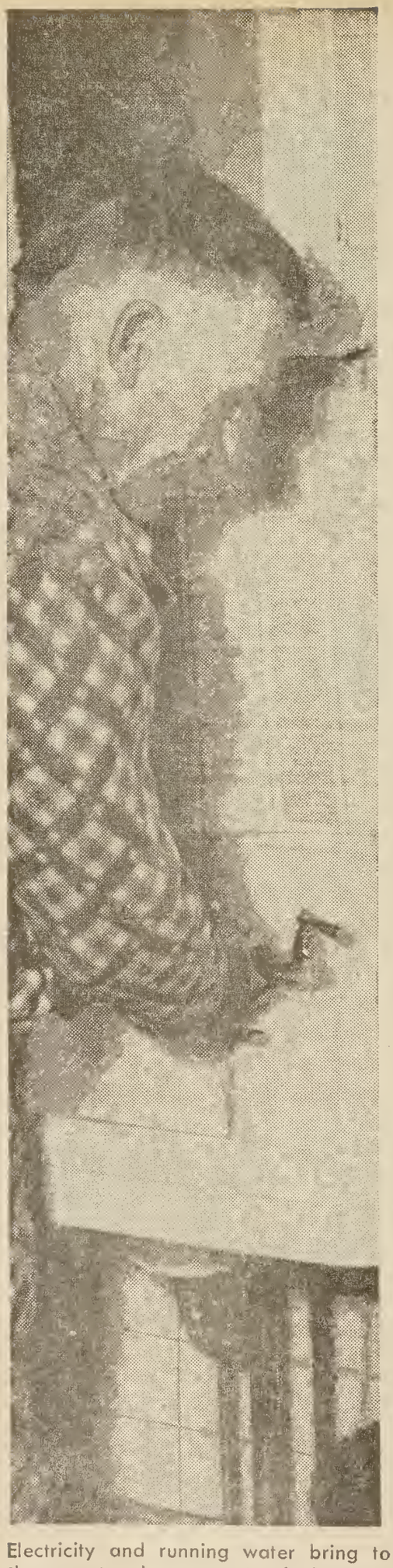


Mr. and Mrs. Ray T. Lee, Anson County farm couple and members of the Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation, Wadesboro, illustrated with colored slides the benefits they have reaped from electricity on their farm and in their home.

Members of the North Carolina delegation found the dinner an excellent opportunity to visit with constituents. Here Senator Scott chats with C. E. Macon, president, Randolph EMC, and Lewis Outlaw, Tri-County EMC's president.

TEMA President James A. Ward (right) welcomes Carteret-Craven President George W. Ball. At Ball's left is Representative Graham Barden. The back belongs to W. C. Carlton, manager, Carteret-Craven EMC, Morehead City.



Electricity and running water bring to the country home most of the conveniences enjoyed by people in cities.

THE DOLLARS AND SENSE OF A FARM

WATER SYSTEM

More than 60 per cent of North Carolina's farms are without running water. Yet for one cent an electric pump will supply as much water as one man can carry in four hours.

CONSIDERING THE economy of a modern electric water system—all the things it will do to increase the profit from farming, at a daily operating cost reckoned in pennies for electrical power—it is difficult to understand how any farmer can expect to farm successfully without one.

A few revealing figures will make the point even more strikingly apparent. Assuming a need of 50 gallons of water per day per person in the average farm family of four members (for kitchen, bathrooms, and laundry use), the daily total requirement is 200 gallons, which adds up to 73,000 gallons on an annual basis.

A survey of nearly 500,000 farms discloses that the well is located on the average a distance of 253 feet from the farm home. If 73,000 gallons of water per year are to be pumped by hand and carried in buckets to the various points in and around the farm home where it is most needed, someone has to put in 63 eight-hour days of water hauling, walking in the process a distance of 1,750 miles, or about the distance of three trips from Murphy to Manteo.

For a few cents a day in electrical power costs, on the other hand, an electric water system will pump 1,000 gallons of water—half a ton, no less—wherever it is needed around the farm and in the farm home. This amount would take care of water needs in the farm home alone for four consecutive days.

Think of it this way. The cost of shoe leather for all the walking required to haul water for the needs of a farm family of four over a period of one year would be far more than the cost of electricity to pump the water.

Why for one cent, a one-third horsepower water system will pump as much water as the average man can haul by hand in four hours. Figuring the minimum wage as set by law at 75 cents per hour, the cost in labor for four hours of water hauling would be $3.00.

From the standpoint of simple economics, how can a farmer afford to pay $3.00 to have a job performed manually when mechanical equipment will accomplish the same objective for him at a cost of one cent? It is something to ponder about.

Yet, the fact remains that more than 60 per cent of North Carolina's farm families still are struggling along and trying to show a profit from farming without the endless advantages of plenty of running water under pressure. Every year, as competition stiffens, the job becomes more difficult and the profit margin just that much more narrow.

The need for running water in abundance inside the farm home should be given full consideration in planning a farm water system.

It takes plenty of running water under pressure to supply bathroom and kitchen plumbing fixtures and such plumbing connected appliances for easier, pleasanter living as the automatic water heater, water softener, clothes washer, dishwasher, and under-the-sink food waste disposer.

Modern plumbing and an electri

water system puts the home in the country on the same plane with the home in the city, when it comes to living conveniences enjoyed by every member of the family.

On the other hand, a plumbing system and the various water-using appliances it supplies is out of the question for the family still relying on the old-fashioned hand pump attached to the well in the yard.

After all, the needs of an automatic water heater or clothes washer cannot be met with water hauled laboriously a pailful at a time.

May is National Water Systems Month —a period during which the manufacturers of electric water systems, the suppliers of electric power (both REA and privately-owned companies) and interested government agencies will pool their cooperative efforts to reach America's farm families through every means available with the full story of running water and the many benefits it assures in healthier, pleasanter and more profitable living on the farm.

It is a time when many farm families, responding to the strongest arguments of self-interest, will make it a point to call on a water systems dealer to arrange for the installation of a pump, pressure storage tank, and enough piping to carry plenty of water to every point on the farm and in the farm home where it can contribute the most to better living, better production.

One of the most convincing examples of the importance of running water to increased profit from farming can be seen in the case of cows and milk production.

Increased Profits

Cows that are not getting the water they need to drink—all they want and when they want it—will not be good milkers. In the summer when it is hot and dry, cows need a lot more water than usual, just as do human beings.

Just how much water does a producing cow require? The answer depends upon how much milk she is producing. Heavy producers, of course, will need more water to drink than lighter producers—while both will need more water than dry cows and young stock.

There is a considerable range in water requirements of producing cows. For instance, a cow producing 27 pounds of milk per day may drink 77 pounds of water or nearly nine gallons, whereas a cow producing 110 pounds daily will need from 27 to 43 gallons of water.

As an average, a cow will consume about three pounds of water for each pound of milk produced. The important point to remember is that when cows

Plenty of hydrant outlets, located at strategic points around the farm, make farming much easier and far more profitable, besides offering valued protection in the event of fire. Hyrant above is frost-proof, will not freeze.

get all the water they need to drink with an electric water system, milk production may jump anywhere from 10 to 20 per cent and butterfat production from 6 to 10 per cent, as contrasted with what it should be if the water were hauled by hand and supplied on an intermittent basis.

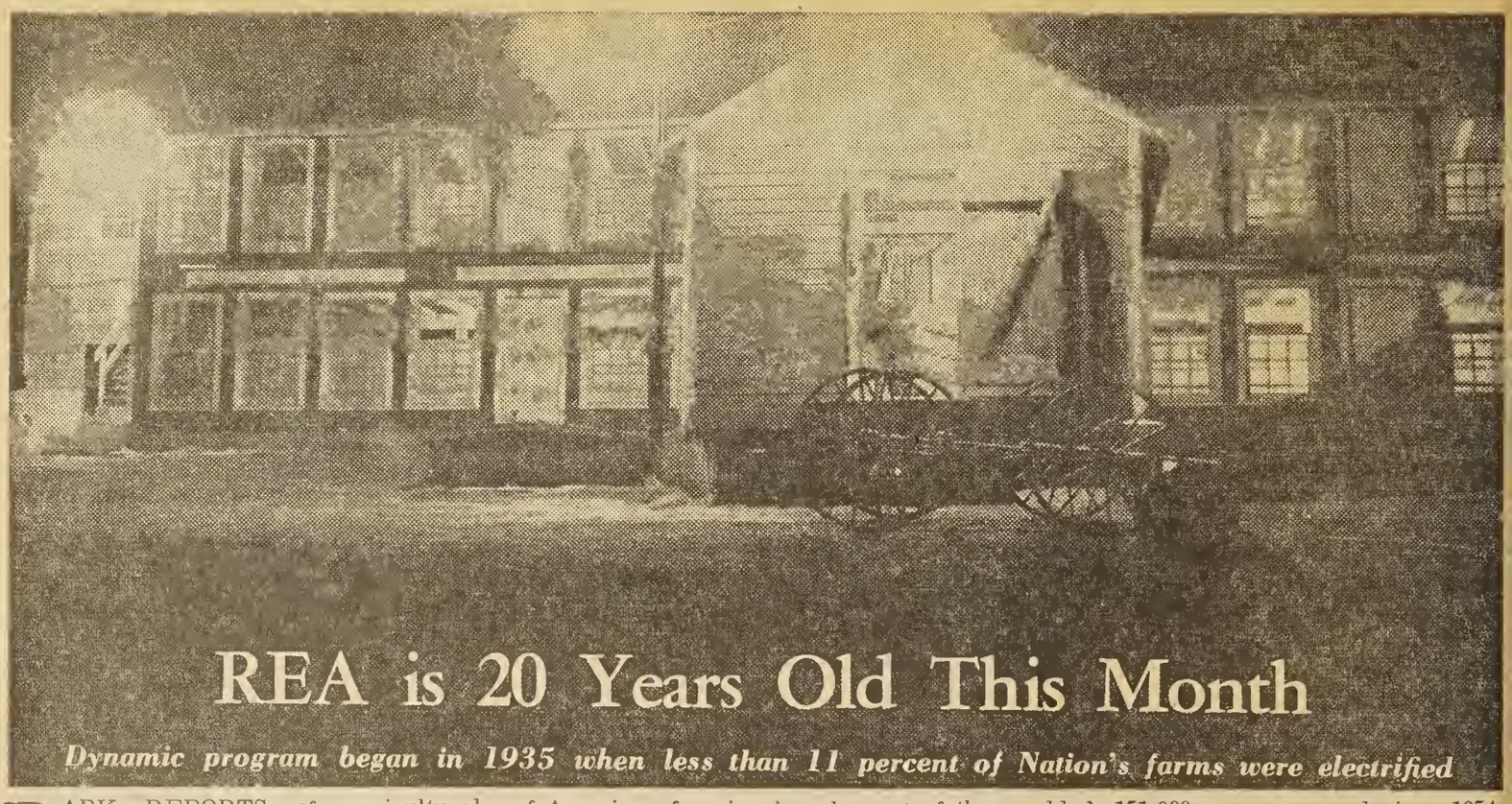
As one farmer put it recently in pointing out the importance of water in sustaining milk production, "When I move my cows from marshy pasture with plenty of springs to a dry pasture where no water is available, I notice milk output drops promptly by a good half a can a day."

For this reason, it is a good idea to provide for running water in the pasture. Here is how one farmer did it. He had a well sunk in each half of his farm property, which was divided in half by a road.

Sufficient pipe lines were extended

(Continued on Page 24)

Installation of this hog-watering device will mean extra profits for the lucky owner. Of all the equipment on the farm the electric water system has been voted "the item we would least like to give up" by millions of farm families.



REA is 20 Years Old This Month

Dynamic program began in 1935 when less than 11 percent of Nation's farms were electrified

DARK REPORTS of agricultural failure in Russia throw into bright contrast a big success story of American farmers and American free enterprise—the rural electrification story.

It is the story of some thousand rural communities all over the United States which with the aid of loans from the Rural Electrification Administration built rural electric systems to provide themselves with badly needed power.

REA is 20 years old on May 11. It was on that date in 1935 that it was created by executive order. It became an established agency of the government by act of Congress on May 20, 1936.

The story is not just that these power systems are serving more than four million consumers over some 1,300,000 miles of line. Nor does the significance of the development arise alone from the fact that electricity has removed much of the drudgery from farm work—drudgery that not many years ago was considered an almost inevitable part of rural living. True, less than 11 per cent of the nation's farmers had electric service in 1935, and now more than 92 per cent of American farms are receiving electric service.

Electric equipment such as milking machines, automatic livestock watering equipment, pig and chick brooders, hay dryers, feed mixers and hoists, have helped farmers increase production with fewer workers to do the job. Today the average farm output per hour of farm labor is almost twice what it was back in pre-World War II days. But electricity's share in the increased efficiency of American farming is only part of the rural electrification success story.

Important to the story is that the REA-financed power systems which are successfully performing this giant task for rural America were built with grass-root initiative. They are locally owned and locally managed. The great majority of them are privately-owned business enterprises, including 983 cooperatives and 25 commercial companies. A smaller number—73—are operated by municipalities or other public bodies. None of the systems was built by Uncle Sam. REA did loan the money with which they were built—but only after the local groups had made plans for building an economically sound system and had signed up enough consumers to support it and to assure repayment of the government loan.

This democratic base of the rural electrification program has been an important factor contributing to its sound growth.

Tremendous Growth

Individually and as a group the rural power systems have grown far beyond their most optimistic early planning. Last year, for example, energy sales by REA-financed electric systems increased by 2.8 billion kwh over the preceding year. And this increase alone was more than the total energy sold by REA electric borrowers in 1946.

Not only are thousands of rural families added to REA-financed power lines each year (REA electric borrowers added 151,000 consumers during 1954, for example), but also the longer rural families have electric service, the more power they use. The average farm consumer served by REA-financed lines used 226 kwh of electric power per month in 1954. This was 11 per cent more than the average farm consumer on these same lines used during the previous year.

While energy sales have been mounting, electric rates to rural consumers on these lines have been going down. Cost of power to residential consumers on REA-financed systems dropped to an average of 3.06 cents per kwh in 1954 from 3.22 cents in 1953.

Even while reducing power rates to rural consumers, the REA electric borrowers in 1954 were able to increase their net margins from system operation by nearly 40 per cent. REA Administrator Ancher Nelsen attributes this improvement largely to a reduction in the costs of wholesale power put into the systems and to efficient management.

These dollar and cents figures of the rural electrification story would not be complete without mention of the people behind the statistics. People give the story its real meaning.

Take the Joe Doakes family who a few years ago were rejoicing because they could discard their kerosene lamps after the power lines reached their farm home. For them push button lighting, an electric iron and an electric refrigerator then seemed the ultimate in luxury. Today this same family, typically, would have a house full of electrical equipment and would probably be

considering installing an air-conditioning system, an electrical range or a water system if they have not already done so.

Then there's the instance of Bill Smith, the dairy farmer, who has cut down his work and raised the standard of his product by installing electrical milking, cooling, watering, and barn cleaning equipment.

These and similar cases, multiplied by the thousands, explain the continually growing demand for power in rural areas. They also explain why most REA borrowers have needed to improve and expand their electric systems in order to deliver more power than contemplated in original plans.

Up to January 1, 1955, REA had approved electric loans totaling $2,946,000,000 to 1,075 borrowers. When facilities financed by these loans are completed, they will provide electric service to more than 4,400,000 rural consumers over about 1,400,000 miles of power line.

Fine Repayment Record

REA electric borrowers have chalked up a splendid repayment record on these loans to date. At the start of the year, REA borrowers had paid about $193,000,000 in interest and repaid more than $376,000,000 in principal on their REA loans. This included nearly $79,000,000 paid ahead of schedule as a cushion against future interest and principal payments. Only about $307,000 in loan payments were delinquent more than 30 days. Farmers and the cooperative electric systems they operated are good financial risks.

Success of the electric loan program led Congress in 1949 to assign to REA the task of launching and directing a similar program to improve and increase telephone service in rural areas. From the start of the telephone loan program to the beginning of 1955, REA approved a total of more than $208,000,000 to 163 telephone cooperatives and 146 telephone companies. But that is another story.

Looking To The Future

Looking to the future, a recent survey conducted by REA shows that electric borrowers plan to construct about $202,000,000 worth of new facilities during the 1956 fiscal year. They also plan to connect new consumers at the rate of about 125,000 a year through 1960. To take care of increased power demands of consumers, the electric borrowers plan to spend about one-fourth of their future loans to improve and

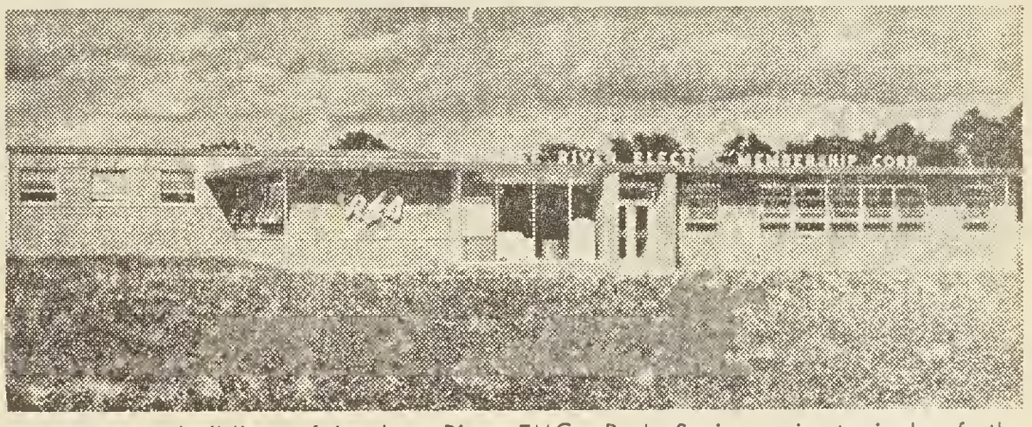
(Continued on Page 19)

North Carolina Is Ahead of the Nation in Rural Electrification

Growth of rural electrification in North Carolina has paralleled its progress throughout the United States during the last two decades (see article in adjoining columns).

As the nation prepares to observe the 20th anniversary of the rural electrification program, North Carolina can proudly claim that more than 96.9 per cent of its farms are now electrified, compared with only 3.2 per cent back in 1935.

State agricultural leaders give electricity a large share of the credit for the advances made in farm living and output since the mid-1930's. Life on the farm in 1935 meant hand pumping and carrying of water, chopping wood for the cookstove, bending over a washboard, and poor lighting for reading and all farm jobs after nightfall.



Headquarters building of Lumbee River EMC, Red Springs, is typical of the modern facilities of rural electric cooperatives throughout North Carolina.

Today's farm picture is much brighter, because of rural electrification. Families living on farms served by REA-financed systems can have push button lights, running water, refrigerators, water heaters, clothes dryers, air conditioning units, and the other modern comforts and conveniences city folks enjoy.

Now, as the 20th anniversary of REA approaches, North Carolina boasts 36 REA-financed rural power systems, 32 of which are farmer-owned cooperatives. They serve about 45.0 per cent of the electrified farms in the state. At the beginning of 1955, these REA-financed systems were serving 177,189 farms and other rural consumers over 39,477 miles of line.

Total electrification loans approved to North Carolina borrowers at the beginning of 1955 was $97,289,000. When all the construction authorized by these loans is completed, the new facilities will bring electric service to about 190,290 consumers, including those now served.

The steady increase in power consumption shows that farm families continually make electricity do more work for them. Average monthly consumption on REA-financed power lines in North Carolina increased from 93 kilowatt hours per farm during 1949 to 194 kilowatt hours during 1954.

Like REA borrowers in other states, North Carolina electric borrowers have been prompt about meeting payments on their government loans. Up to the beginning of this year, state electric borrowers had paid $5,780,000 in interest and repaid $15,257,000 of principal on their REA loans. This includes a current balance of $2,533,000 payments made ahead of schedule. REA reports that no payment due from North Carolina borrowers was in arrears at the end of 1954.

Families living on REA-financed power lines are not the only ones who have benefited from REA. The rural electrification program has also brought more business to rural communities. Experience of REA borrowers shows that for every dollar invested in new rural power facilities, farm families themselves have to spend three to four dollars for wiring, plumbing and electrical appliances in order to make use of electricity. In North Carolina that means between $240,000,000 and $320,000,000 in business resulting from the some $80,000,000 in REA loan funds advanced to borrowers for investment in rural power systems. But this is only the initial investment—farm families, like their own rural electric systems, keep adding new equipment in order to make effective use of electricity.

More recently REA was given the job

(Continued on Page 24)

Co-Op Manager D. B. Crow Passes

Rutherford Board Names Gibbs as Successor

Electric co-op leaders throughout the state were shocked last month by the sudden death of Doctor Ben Crow, manager of Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation at Forest City. Mr. Crow had been troubled for sometime with a heart condition, but seemed improved just a few days prior to his death when he attended the Congressional Dinner in Washington.

Mr. Crow is survived by his wife, Mrs. Madge Blankenship Crow, and two children.

Mr. Crow was highly respected throughout the state, and many co-op officials made the trip to Forest City to pay their respects. At the time of his death he was a member of the Legislative Committee of the Tarheel Electric Membership Association.

D. B. CROW

L. T. GIBBS

Mr. Crow, 51, was born and raised in Golden Valley, Rutherford County. He was educated in the schools of the community, and after finishing high school he followed his father's footsteps and engaged in civil engineering, farming and lumbering. In his later years he served on the district school board and was for a number of years the Sunday School superintendent at his church.

He was a real pioneer in rural electrification. In 1937 he and a few associates succeeded in establishing a cooperative that extended power lines into the Golden Valley Community, serving 410 people. He was made general manager of what later grew into the Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation, serving the counties of Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, Catawba, Burke, McDowell, Polk and Rutherford.

Today the cooperative serves more than 8,000 members in the eight counties and the electric system is valued at more than three million dollars.

Mr. Crow was the second electric co-op manager in North Carolina to die in office. The first was S. S. Shubrick, manager of Four County Electric Membership Corporation at Burgaw, who died in 1946.

The Rutherford board of directors immediately named Assistant Manager L. T. Gibbs to succeed Mr. Crow. A native of Virginia, Mr. Gibbs went to the co-op in 1951, serving as engineer in addition to his duties as assistant manager.

"Tommy" Gibbs is widely known among electric co-op officials in North Carolina. From 1938 until 1951 he was an engineer for REA, serving for some time as that agency's North Carolina field engineer. He spent five years on active duty with the U. S. Army during World War II, and presently holds a commission as Major in the U. S. Army Reserve.

"Tommy," his wife and two sons make their home in Rutherfordton.

North Carolina Co-ops Up Payments to REA

North Carolina REA electric borrowers stepped up their payments on government loans in 1954, making payments of $2,199,158 on principal, and $900,081 in interest.

During the 1953 calendar year, the borrowers paid $1,671,249 on principal, and $716,421 in interest.

The 1954 loan repayments included $498,771 paid ahead of schedule. This increased total advance payments in the state to $2,533,010. These funds represent a cushion of credit which the borrowers may apply against future interest or principal installments.

Electric loans in North Carolina now total $97,288,843. Of this amount $79,405,399 has been advanced the borrowers by REA.

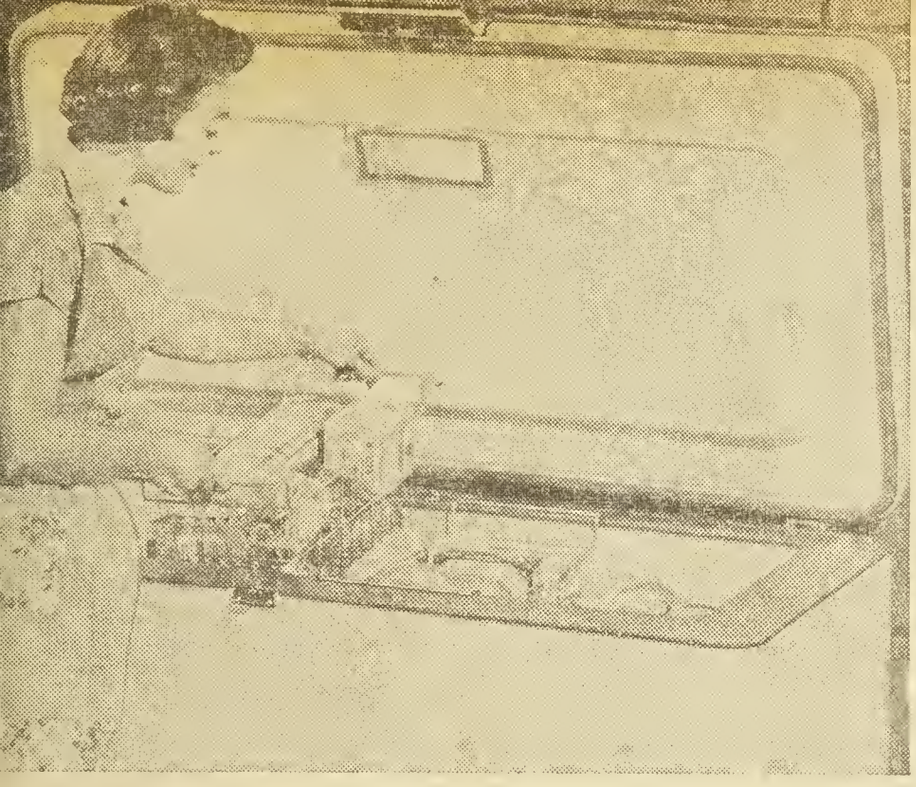
No North Carolina borrowers were delinquent on debt repayment at the end of 1954.

More Farmers Using Land Bank Loans

Farmers obtained nearly 24,000 loans for $143 million in land bank loans through the Nation's 1,100 national farm loan associations in the last 6 months of 1954. Thomas A. Maxwell, Director of Land Bank Service of the Farm Credit Administration, made this announcement today.

Of the $143 million farmers borrowed in the last 6 months of 1954, they used about half of the total to refinance real estate mortgages they already had, the Farm Credit Administration estimated. Another 13 per cent went to refinance chattel mortgages, notes and accounts. Money to buy farms accounted for 13 per cent, slightly more than in 1953. About 10 per cent of the amount loaned went for repairs and improvements to buildings and improvements to the land. The remainder was used to purchase farm machinery, to purchase livestock, and for general farm operations.

Land bank loans are made through local national farm loan associations for periods from 5 to 30 years or more and are paid off in regular installments of interest and principal. However, generally, a farmer can pay off his loan without penalty at any time he has the money. Each farmer-borrower becomes a member of the local association through which he obtains his loan by buying stock in it equal to approximately 5 per cent of his loan. From the organization of this credit system in 1917 to December 31, 1954, farmers have obtained about 1.4 million loans for $5.4 billion.



Summer thunderstorms, hurricanes and other disturbances sometimes result in power failures. When outages are prolonged, people often wonder

How to Protect Frozen Foods

ONE of the questions discussed at the recent frozen foods clinic held in Granville County (*CF,* April) provoked a great deal of response from readers who wished the problem discussed more fully. "How long can food be kept after current is off?" It seems that a great many freezer owners have been faced with the problem of taking care of their frozen foods in times of emergencies, and they are in need of a step-by-step procedure to follow at such moments.

The question was discussed briefly at the Granville County clinics by Miss Nita Orr, Extension food conservation specialist, and L. K. Stephenson, electrification advisor, Wake Electric Membership Corporation. Both panelists agreed that food will keep longer if the freezer is tightly packed and if the door is not opened. The food is generally safe, they said, if the temperature has not gone above 40 to 50 degrees and if ice is still on the package. Although panelist Stephenson cited instances where food remained frozen solid from 72 to 96 hours during Hurricane Hazel, Miss Orr did not wish to make a definite statement as to the length of time food will keep.

With these thoughts in mind, *Carolina Farmer* staff members began to dig for detailed instructions as to correct procedures to follow when emergencies arise.

First of all, if the freezer isn't operating, the owner should check first to see if the power is off. In this event, find out how long it will be off and make further plans accordingly. If the power is not off, then look for clues in the freezer as to what may be wrong. If the motor is running, but no refrigeration is taking place, the belt may be broken. A new one will take care of this. Or perhaps the belt just needs tightening, which can usually be done by sliding the motor on its base. If neither of these things seem wrong, the compressor valve may be stuck, and a serviceman should be called. If the freezer motor isn't working, be sure the plug is properly in the outlet. Then try a lamp or other appliance in the outlet. If it doesn't work, look for fuse trouble.

The manufacturer's instructions which came with the freezer will be of invaluable aid in locating the cause of your trouble.

Time is Important

In case of a power outage, find out how long it is likely to continue, or if a serviceman is called in, how long it will take to get the freezer to working again. If only an hour or two, no precautions need be taken. If longer, you must prepare to take care of your frozen foods.

First of all, take a look at your freezer and the food and estimate how long the food will keep. With the freezer closed, food will usually stay frozen in a fully loaded cabinet 2 days; in a cabinet with less than half a load, not more than a day. Tests in a warm room show that after the freezer stops running food in well-filled, well-insulated 4-cubic foot home freezers will not begin to spoil in less than three days.

Food in well-filled, well-insulated 12 to 36-cubic food home freezers will not begin to spoil in less than 5 days. How long the food in your freezer will stay frozen depends on:

1. *The amount of food in the freezer.* A full freezer will stay cold many hours longer than a freezer only a quarter full.

2. *The kind of food.* A freezer full of meat will not warm up so fast as a freezer full of baked food.

3. *The temperature of the food.* The colder the food, the longer it will stay frozen.

4. *The freezer itself.* A well-insulated freezer will keep food frozen much longer than one with little insulation.

5. *Size of freezer.* The larger the freezer, the longer the food will stay frozen.

In the event the freezer will not be in operation for a good number of hours, or the freezer is not packed tightly enough to protect it, then steps should be taken to move the food directly to a commercial locker or to pack the freezer with dry ice.

If you have made advance arrangements with a locker to take care of your food in times of emergencies, check with them to be sure they have available space at the moment for your food. Wrap the food in plenty of newspapers and blankets, or use insulated boxes. Rush the food to the locker plant. **Do not take the food to the locker without first checking to see if it is operating or if space is available.**

If locker space is not available and it looks as though the freezer will be out of operation for longer than a day, use dry ice if you can get it. You may be able to buy dry ice from a local dairy or a cold-storage warehouse. The more ice you get, the longer the food will keep. Fifty pounds will protect an av-

(Continued on Page 24)

When Should I Irrigate?

That's a common question these days as more and more farmers join the swing to irrigation. Here's a simple solution, developed by a State College Authority.

By C. H. M. VAN BAVEL

(Dr. van Bavel is a soil scientist with the USDA and associate professor of soils on the Experiment Station staff. This article is the result of four years work on N. C. soil problems and was recently published in the research magazine of the Experiment Station.)

OUR TOUGHEST problem in irrigation is knowing **when** to start watering. So far it's been mostly guesswork. Too often we start **after** the plant begins to wilt.

But now, with a little simple arithmetic, you can figure out for sure when to irrigate **before** the crops suffer. This new system, called the evaporation method, was developed at North Carolina State College.

It's based on the fact that soils lose water by evaporation from the surface and from plants taking up moisture within the soil. During the growing season this combined process accounts for almost all water losses, while rainfall and irrigation, minus runoff, account for all additions.

Thus, you can keep track of soil moisture as it goes up and down just like your checking account at the bank. It's very simple arithmetic—lots easier than figuring out your income tax.

Table 1. Estimated Average Use of Water Per Day by Tobacco

Month	Coastal Plain & Piedmont	Mountains
April	0.11 of an inch	0.10 inch
May	0.14 of an inch	0.12 inch
June	0.17 of an inch	0.15 inch
July	0.16 of an inch	0.14 inch
August	0.14 of an inch	0.12 inch

You can use this new method to tell when to irrigate any crop on any soil—if you know four necessary facts. You can furnish Nos. 1 and 4, while Nos. 2 and 3 are given in this article.

1. Depth of rooting of the crop.
2. Capacity of the soil to hold moisture **available to the plant.** This is given for the more common tobacco soils in North Carolina in Table 3. Notice that each soil has its own capacity to hold moisture which plants can use.
3. Evaporation rate of the plant. This is given in Table 1.
4. Rainfall. Measure your own rainfall in a simple, home-made gauge. You can make your own by mounting an ordinary gallon oil can on top of a post 5 feet high out in the open. Take your readings immediately after a rain to avoid losses from evaporation.

Here's how the figuring works out for tobacco grown at Raleigh on Ruston medium sandy loam.

First, the rooting depth of tobacco is 12 inches.

Second, the greatest amount of moisture available to plants is 1.7 inches, as shown in Table 3.

Third, pick the right evaporation rate, according to the month, from Table 1. Notice how this varies by months. That's due to differences in sunlight which accounts for 90 per cent of the day-to-day change in amount of water which plants draw from the soil. Also, this water loss will vary from the average amount shown up to 0.24 inch on bright, hot days to near zero on cool, cloudy days. You may want to make allowances for these conditions.

Table 2. Example of Soil Moisture Record

Date	Water Use (Inches)	Rainfall or Irrigation (Inches)	Moisture in Soil to 12" Dept (Inches)
	....	....	1.70
May 28	.14	....	1.56
May 29	.14	....	1.42
May 30	.14	....	1.28
May 31	.14	....	1.14
June 1	.07 (cloudy & cool)	....	1.07
June 2	.10 (partly cloudy)	0.3 in. rain	1.27
June 3	.17	....	1.10
June 4	.17	....	.93
June 5	.17	....	.76
June 6	.17	0.9 in. irrig.	1.49
June 7	.02 (cloudy & cool)	....	1.47
June 8	.17	2.0 in. rain	1.70
June 9	.17		1.53

Fourth, keep your own rainfall record.

So each morning you'd just need to keep a running account of soil moisture like the example in Table 2.

Notice three points about this account.

First, we started keeping it on the day after a rain or irrigation filled the soil to field capacity—1.7 inches. Otherwise you cannot know exactly how much water is in the soil to start with.

Second, on June 6, we irrigated with 0.9 inches of water. Actually, we put

on 1.2 inches, but counted it as only 0.9 inches. We did that because irrigation is considered only 75 per cent efficient. That is, only 75 per cent of the water put on actually becomes available to the plant. This is due to evaporation, uneven distribution and other factors. Be sure to remember this 75 per cent efficiency in figuring water added by irrigation.

Third, on June 8, even though we had a 2-inch rain, the soil held only 1.7 inches of **available** moisture. The excess ran through or off the soil.

Of course, we irrigated on June 6 because available moisture had dropped just below the 50 per cent level the day before. That's when you want to start irrigating—when moisture falls to 50 per cent of that available to plants.

For nine out of 10 irrigations during 1950 and 1951, the evaporation method was accurate within one day of the instrument readings.

TABLE 3. Water holding capacity and rate water soaks in on common tobacco soils in N. C.

Type	Soil Description	Organic Matter	Drainage	Available Moisture Holding Capacity in Upper 18 inches of soil (inches water)	Recommended Maximum Application Rates for Design Purposes
		Coastal Plain			(Inches per Hour)
Lakeland	Deep, light texture, sandy soil (sandy subsoil)	Very low	Very Well Drained	1.0	.75
Norfolk	Medium sandy loam soil (sandy clay loam subsoil)	Low	Well drained	1.7 S. L. 1.3 Loamy fine sand	.40 .50
Ruston	Medium sandy loam soil (Brownish sandy clay loam subsoil	Low	Well drained More sloping than Norfolk	1.7	.40
Goldsboro	Medium sandy loam soil (sandy clay subsoil) Mottled in lower subsoil	Higher than Norfolk	Moderately well drained	1.7	.40
Dunbar	Fine sandy loam soil (sandy clay subsoil)	Medium	Imperfectly drained	1.9	.40
Lynchburg	Medium sandy loam soil (sandy clay subsoil)	Medium to low	Imperfectly drained	1.9	.40
Klej	Yellowish sandy (with gray mottled subsoil)	Low	Moderately Well drained	1.1	.75
		Piedmont			
Durham & Appling	Moderately light textured surfaces and friable sandy clay subsoil	Low	Well drained	2.1	.35
Durham, Appling and Helena deep phase	Light textured with deep (12"-24") surface over sandy clay.	Low	Well drained	1.1	.40
Wilkes	Similar to Helena but thinner top and subsoil	Low	Moderately well drained	1.3	.25
Cecil Clay Loam	Red clay to pink top-soil. Red clay subsoil (eroded sandy top)	Low	Well drained	2.3	.25
		Mountains			
Congaree	Deep loams - bottom and 2nd bottom Brown, open subsoil	Medium	Well drained	2.0 F.S.L. 2.2 Silt L.	.35 .30
Tusquittee	Loam - deep soil	Medium	Well drained	2.6	.50
Halewood Hayesville	Loams - upland	Low	Well drained	2.2	.40
Halewood	Gravelly sandy loam, sandy loam and fine sandy loam	Low	Well drained	1.5	.40
Hayesville	Fine sandy loam, sandy loam	Low	Well drained	1.9	.40

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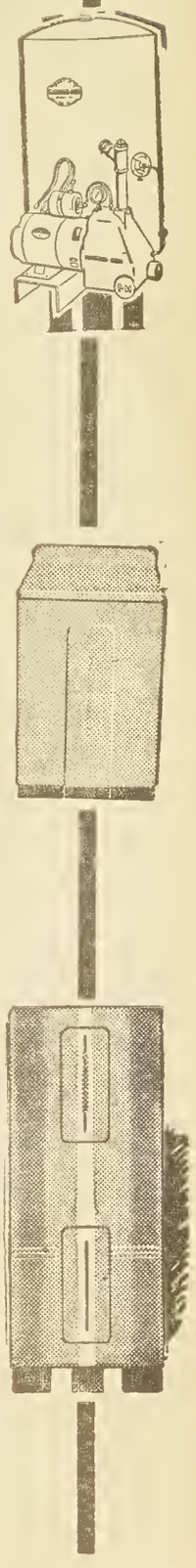

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THERE'S NO DOUBT, WILLIE. IRRIGATION'S THE THING. McBRIDE'S CROPS WERE TERRIFIC LAST YEAR··· ···MINE WERE TERRIBLE!!!
HOWDY, HARRY!
WELL, THE FIRST THING I DID WAS VISIT THE RURAL ELECTRIC OFFICE. I WANTED TO RUN THE PUMP WITH AN ELECTRIC MOTOR! NOT ONE OF THOSE TROUBLESOME GAS JOBS!!
YIPE!!
WITH THEIR HELP AND THE COUNTY AGENT'S, I GOT SQUARE ON SUCH THINGS AS WATER SUPPLY, TERRAIN, SOILS ETC.- A VERY EARTHY CONVERSATION! THEY SHOWED ME SEVERAL TYPES OF PUMPS AND MOTORS, TOO.
IRRIGATING? Remember··· ✔ crops ✔ soils ✔ terrain ✔ water supply ✔ water rights
ELECTRIC MOTORS • CHEAPER • DEPENDABLE • LESS MAINTENANCE. • EASE OF OPERATION
WE'RE LUCKY- GOT A GOOD WATER TABLE IN THESE PARTS! PUTTING IN A WELL IS A CINCH!!
COULDN'T WE TALK SOMEWHERE ELSE? I'M GETTING SOAKED!
A SPRINKLER SYSTEM IS THE ONLY THING FOR THIS TERRAIN. THE PIPES LOOK HEAVY, BUT THEY'RE REAL LIGHT!! ALUMINUM Y'KNOW.
I'M A VERY WET WILLIE !!
THE WHOLE THING CAN BE TAKEN APART, MOVED AND SET UP AGAIN IN AN HOUR! WE CAN IRRIGATE A COUPLE OF ACRES A DAY EASILY!!
OMIGOSH!!! I THINK I'M SHRINKING!!
BUT THE BEST PART IS THE YIELD. LAST YEAR I GOT 30% MORE CROPS PER ACRE. BETTER QUALITY, TOO! THAT MEANT MORE MONEY BOTH WAYS! ELECTRIC IRRIGATION HAS SURE PAID OFF FOR ME !!
5-55

Copyright, 1955, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

200 ATTEND DINNER

(Continued from Page 7)

Virginia and five North Carolina cooperatives—all in the service area of the Virginia Electric & Power Company—have already saved over $350,000 in power costs by purchasing their energy requirements from the Federal Government's John H. Kerr project in Virginia. Fourteen other North Carolina cooperatives, however, all located in the service area of Carolina Power & Light Company, have thus far failed in their efforts to purchase the 60,000 kilowatts which the government has reserved for them in the project.

In calling for congressional help, Ward said that L. V. Sutton, CP&L's president, committed the company to wheel the power to these fourteen cooperatives nearly four years ago, when his company appeared before a congressional committee in opposition to a proposed government transmission line into North Carolina.

"The company has not lived up to its promise," Ward said. "Meanwhile, these fourteen cooperatives have lost an estimated $240,000 in power cost savings as a result."

Ward said the cooperatives which have not yet obtained Buggs Island power have insisted on two principles being honored in any arrangement that is made for delivering the power to them. He stated these were: "First, that we receive title to this power, clear and unencumbered, directly from the government. And second, that we receive a fair share of the economic benefits in this government project."

CP&L, he said, has thus far refused to accept the first principle. The cooperatives have indicated their willingness to enter into an agreement similar to the VEPCO wheeling contract, which has been in effect for over a year and a half.

In calling for congressional rejection of the Hoover Commission report on REA, Ward said that two effects of the report, if enacted into law, would be that the rural electrification program would be taken out of the control of Congress, and that the cooperatives would have to pay double their present interest rate on borrowed capital.

"Already our consumers are paying more for power than their city neighbors," Ward said. "If their interest rate on borrowed funds are doubled, many of them will either have to operate in the red, increase their retail power rates, or both. In either event, they are made vulnerable to utility company absorption."

REA IS 20 YEARS OLD THIS MONTH

(Continued from Page 11)

heavy up their distribution systems.

While the steady growth in power consumption by the average rural consumer has forced many REA borrowers to heavy up their lines, at the same time it has helped the power systems increase their revenues—and so strengthen their financial condition.

Already rural electrification has made a major contribution to the prosperity of rural communities as well as to individual farm families receiving power. Surveys indicate that for every dollar invested in rural power facilities, the farmer spends three to four dollars in wiring, plumbing and electrical appliances. On the basis of loans approved to date, this means between $9 billion and $12 billion in business resulting from the nearly $3 billion of rural electrification loans approved to date.

Such is the success story of REA-financed electric systems in 1955—twenty years after the Rural Electrification Administration was established. That the story is only well begun is evidenced by the steady growth of these rural power systems and the mounting demand of rural areas for power. And the past record of REA borrowers promises well for their future—that it will be a continuing success story.

SOUTHERN ENGINEERING
COMPANY
ARCHITECTS—ENGINEERS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Here's The Way To Curb A Rupture

Successful Home Method That Anyone Can Use On Any Reducible Rupture Large Or Small

Thousands of ruptured men will rejoice to know that the full plan so successfully used by Capt. W. A. Collings for his double rupture from which he suffered so long will be sent free to all who write for it.

Merely send your name and address to Capt. W. A. Collings, Inc., Box 712-M, Watertown, N. Y. It won't cost you a cent to find out and you may bless the day you sent for it. Hundreds have already reported satisfactory results following this free offer. Send right away—NOW—before you put down this paper (Advertisement).

Pumps Full Capacity at 40 lbs. Pressure!

Here's the complete, automatic jet water system you need if you want "city water" conveniences—the new Rapidayton "TWIN". Pumps water from 0 to 140 foot depths! Has *two* impellers instead of one—gives you more water with more pressure than ordinary systems. See other big features at your dealer's. You'll be surprised at the low prices—complete ½ H.P. system low as $149.50.

*Trade Mark

Rural Sales Department
THE DAYTON PUMP & MFG. COMPANY, Dayton 1, Ohio
Please send me facts on the new Rapidayton "TWIN".

NAME _____

ADDRESS (or R.F.D.) _____

POST OFFICE _____ STATE _____

The homemaker straightens the binding on a reupholstered chair—the final touch in the successful venture.

Re-upholstery . . A Family Project

Spring-cleaning time is usually the season for examining the upholstery on the family chairs. When cushions, covers and even dim lights fail to hide that soiled or worn chair, it's time to build yourself a new one.

It sounds like a big job, doesn't it? It really isn't, with a practical step-by-step approach to the task.

And it's fun, too, for, like most "do-it-yourself" jobs, you will view the finished product with a great deal of pride. To make it easier on yourself, pull the whole family into helping on the project. There are a few steps in the procedure that even the man in the house can help with.

Working with someone, the job will go faster and more smoothly. Your helper can do the stretching and tacking; you can do the measuring, cutting and sewing.

First step will be to obtain the proper materials and tools, for, as you well know, having the right implements is important for the handling of any household task.

The fabric you select should be firm and strong and not a loosely woven one. An unnapped fabric which does not have a slick surface will wear longer. Your wisest choice is a durable wool fabric which will mold readily to the shape of the chair, be easy to handle and give you longest service.

Wide Selection of Wool

You will find a wide selection of new, interesting wools in all yard goods and department stores. Surprisingly enough, you won't have to limit yourself to wool fabrics designed especially for upholstery. Wool fabrics made for dresses and skirts—available in a wide range of textures and colors—are ideally suited to the requirements of upholstery. A word of advice to beginners: checks, plaids or stripes are more difficult to work with than solids or flecked or nubbed fabrics.

Wool yard goods easily take the wear and tear children give furniture and you will find that your chair, re-upholstered in wool, will be easier to keep clean. Dust brushes off wool-covered furniture easily and wool never acquires the sheen other materials do. Most important, wool fabrics can be readily cleaned with ordinary household cleaning fluids—and they never spot or streak with such treatment.

For a boudoir chair, you will need four and one-half to five yards of wool fabric, about two yards of black cambric for under the seat, four to four and a half yards of muslin for the undercovering and three or three and a half yards of burlap as a covering for the springs and stuffing. For requirements for other types of furniture check with any yard goods or furniture store.

Decide on the trim you will want for your chair and purchase it with your wool fabric. Trim that has a professional air are bindings of matching fabric. Bindings called "welts"—strips of fabric sewn around a welt cord—are easy to make.

The best tools to use include: an upholsterer's hammer, which has a double-faced magnetic head; a curved

needle and a straight double-pointed needle; long upholsterer's shears, and skewers or pins. You also need "number four" tacks, webbing, tying twine, sewing twine, cotton wadding and hair stuffing. Helpful also are a tack lifter and a webbing stretcher.

Though the list seems long, when you lay out the tools and add up the cost you will find that the requirements are neither large or expensive.

Major Steps

The major steps in upholstering are stripping, rebuilding and re-covering. As you strip the chair note carefully how the professional job was done. It will help you a great deal when you are ready to rebuild, if, as you strip, you mark all pieces and use them as patterns for measuring and cutting the new covering. The order of stripping is the reverse of upholstering: skirt (if any), cambric from underneath seat, trim, outside back, outside arms, inside back, inside arms and seat.

Now you are ready to rebuild. First check the springs to see that they are all securely attached and that none is broken. Follow the old pattern to replace any that are broken or to re-tie any that are unattached.

For a satisfactory finished product, you will want to know that the chair is in good condition from inside out. You may find that the webbing, to which springs are attached, is worn. If this is so, stretch new strips of webbing taut across the chair and tack at each end, then replace springs. The man of the house can use the webbing stretcher to pull the webbing and hold it taut while you tack the ends to the frame. Replace front-to-back strips of webbing first, then weave cross-strips in. For a more secure hold, springs should be attached where webbing meets.

Pattern From Old Covering

In re-covering, you will find it easiest to work on the various parts of the chair in the following order: seat, inside arms, inside back, outside arms, outside back, trim. Each section, except the outside arms and back, will be covered with burlap, a layer of stuffing, another layer of burlap, muslin, cotton wadding and the final covering of wool fabric. The outside arms and back are covered only with the fabric, although you may put a muslin lining on the back if you desire.

As you measure and cut the various layers of cloth, remember to use the old pieces as patterns. Each material when applied to the chair should be stretched tight and attached securely. First the coverings are baste-tacked (driving tacks only part way in) and then, after any necessary adjustments to assure evenness, permanently tacked.

Since two or more layers of cloth will be tacked to the same wood area of your chair it is important that you stagger rows of tacks so that the frame is not split.

Covers for the inside arms and back are pulled through from the inside of the chair to the outside, stretched tight and tacked to outside surfaces of chair supports.

So that tacks will not show in the finished chair, the final cover of the outside arms and outside back are blind-tacked at the top of the arms and back. To blindtack, let the material drape over the top of the arm or back with reverse side showing. Place a cardboard strip about one-half inch wide over the top edge of the fabric at the top of the arm (or back) where the fabric should be attached. Tack through the cardboard, then stretch the fabric down over the cardboard strip and tack bottom edge of fabric under the seat rails.

After each section has been covered with your wool fabric, finishing touches will be to cover seams at the front of the arms and along the sides of the back with the welts which you ordered from an upholsterer or made yourself. Black cambric is stretched across the bottom of the seat and tacked and then the skirt is attached.

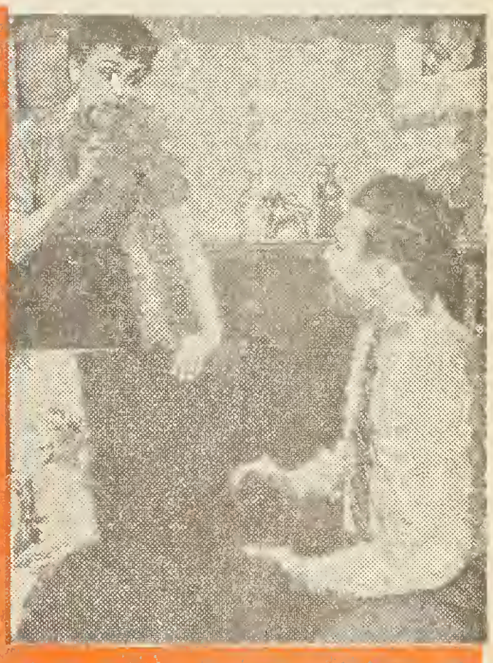
* * *

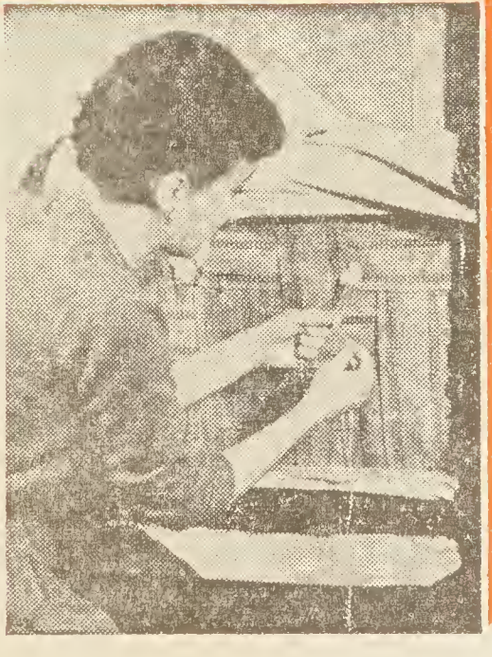
For re-upholstering and making new slip covers, the following booklet can be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, Bureau of Printing and Engraving, Washington, D. C.:
"Slip Covers for Furniture" (USDA .....Farmer's Bulletin 1873)—10c

Step 1—
This couple is preparing to re-upholster a boudoir chair in a black wool tweed fabric with rose nubs.

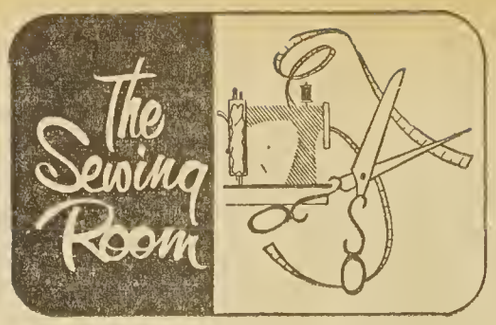
Step 2—
After stripping chair, sew buttons to the back for well-groomed look. Tie ends of twine, close the back with muslin and final wool cover.

Step 3—
Attach back cover at each side. One of the skewers which will hold cover in place is being adjusted. Tack a piece of black cambric across bottom.

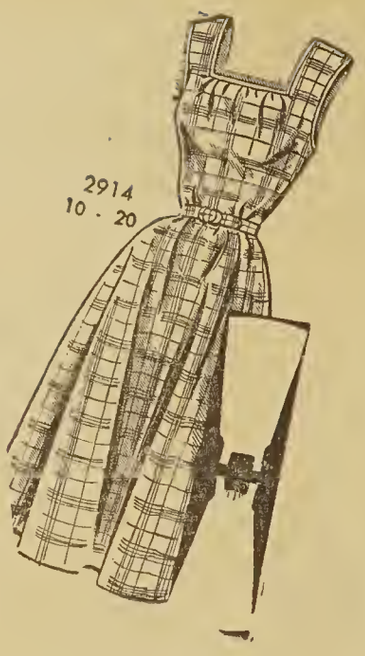




2888. Feminine, charming sleeveless style has gathered skirt, high Empire waistline, scoop neckline, shirred bodice. So pretty and flattering! Sizes 10 to 20. Size 16: Style shown, 3¾ yds. 35-in.



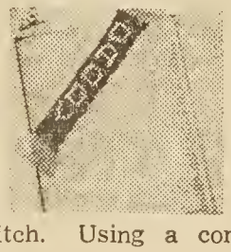
3047. Smart, classic two-pieced with slimming lines, has shawl-collared bolero. jacket with cuffed short sleeves, skirt with modified fullness. Sizes 12 to 44. Size 18: Style shown, 5¼ yds. 39-in.



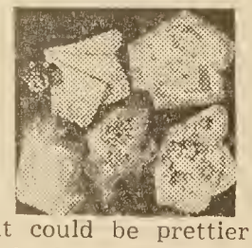
2914. Practical all-in-one-cut style with square neckline can be made in a wink! Just add a belt and you have a simple, multi-purpose dress. Sizes 10 to 20. Size 16: Dress shown, 3¼ yds. 35-in.

Send THIRTY-FIVE CENTS (in coins, no stamps) for each pattern (above) to: CAROLINA FARMER, P. O. Box 42, Old Chelsea Station, New York 11, New York SPRING-SUMMER FASHION BOOK, 25c Additional.

Two New Gift Ideas For Special Occasions



Bookmark. For "Daddy" or any other member of the family, here's a clever personalized bookmark. Simple to knit in plain stockinette stitch. Using a contrasting color fringe is added at both ends. Name or initials are worked in duplicate stitch following alphabet chart. (4583)



Hanky Edging. Every woman loves a really beautiful handkerchief to tuck into her handbag on those very special occasions—and what could be prettier than dainty linen edged with delicate, hand-crocheted lace! Choose your favorite edgings to decorate your best handkerchiefs. Feature some in your Church Bazaar.

Free Pattern and Booklet Order Form

Please send without charge pattern leaflets and/or booklets I have indicated below. I am enclosing a STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE for the patterns I have checked. (Note: Send one envelope for every three patterns.)

May Patterns

☐ Hanky Edging (S-659)
☐ Book Mark (4583)

Other Patterns

☐ Stocking Cap ☐ Knitted Doily
☐ Commuter's Bag ☐ Crocheted Hat
☐ Crocheted Gloves

Booklets

☐ Easy Way to Chase Dirt
☐ Breakfast in the Modern Reducing Diet

Name .....

Electric Membership Corporation.....

Comments .....

.....

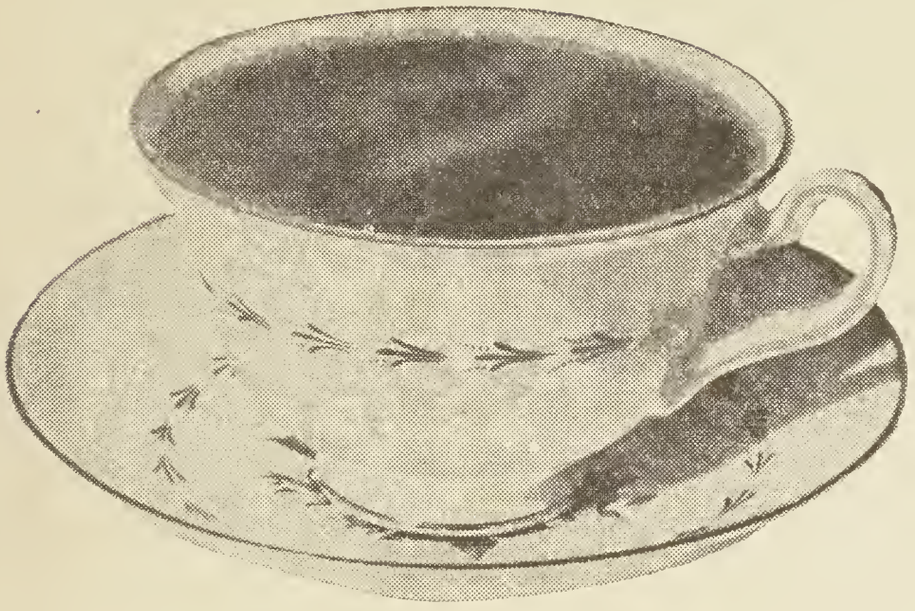
.....

.....

Address coupons to Rebekah Rivers, Carolina Farmer, Box 1699, Raleigh, N. C.

- **Fresh Water**
- **Fresh Coffee**
- **Clean Equipment**

A Good Cup of Coffee



IT IS estimated that Americans drink over 100 billion cups of coffee a year, or enough to overflow the sides of a lake one mile wide and thirty-five feet deep. Yet, with all of its popularity, there is probably no other beverage that suffers more from faulty or inadequate preparation.

Why? Probably because of carelessness. The homemaker who wonders, "What's wrong with my coffee?" could probably answer her own question by checking the careless manner by which she "throws" a pot of coffee together.

There are three fundamentals to the making of good coffee The right amount of coffee to just the right amount of water, the use of clean equipment, and the use of fresh water and fresh coffee.

Another thing—never use less than ¾ of the capacity of a coffee-maker. If less is desired it should be made in a smaller appliance. Brewing small amounts in a big coffee-maker just doesn't come off.

Now comes the crucial point in all good coffee making—how much coffee to how much water. Best results are obtained by using one standard coffee measure (or its equivalent, 2 level measuring tablespoons) to each six ounce cup of water (which is ¾ of a standard measuring cup.) These proportions go for all methods of brewing coffee.

If you use a percolator, start by measuring fresh, cold water into the pot. Put it on the heat and leave it there until it boils. Then—take it off. In the meantime, just the right amount of coffee has been measured into the basket. For this type of coffee-maker it should be "Regular Grind." Now, insert the basket into the pot, return it to the heat and let it perk slowly for six to eight minutes. Then, remove the coffee basket and serve.

If a vacuum type coffee-maker is used, the first two steps are identical with those used in the percolator method—measuring out fresh cold water into the lower bowl and putting it on the heat. From here on out there are some differences. A "Fine" or "Drip" grind is used in this instance. The main thing to remember in making vacuum type coffee is that the upper bowl is not inserted into the lower bowl until the water is vigorously boiling. At that point, the heat is reduced, or turned off, and the upper bowl is inserted with a slight downward twist. Be sure the bowls fit snugly to assure a tight seal.

When most of the water has risen into the upper bowl (there will always be a little left in the lower bowl), stir the coffee-water mixture in both directions for about thirty seconds.

(Continued on Page 24)

Over the Lines With Becky

Storing Woolens

Strong brown paper is a good covering for smaller woolen items in protecting them from moth damage or incidental soil during summer months. Make sure all edges and folds are securely taped—and that these items are put away in good condition. Store larger woolen apparel in moth-proofed bags. When storing the woolens, don't forget to leave out a sweater or two for unexpected chilly summer evenings.

Cotton Bag Contest

Now's the time to think about entering the 1955 Cotton Bag Sewing Contest, which is held annually by the National Cotton Council. The contest is open to seamstresses of all ages, and valuable prizes are offered at local and national levels for the best home sewing with the colorful cotton used in modern packaging of feed, flour, fertilizer, and other farm and home products. Local contests for North Carolinians will be held at the State Fair in Raleigh, October 18-22. At this event, a queen and two alternates will be chosen. These three will receive expense-paid week's vacation in Chicago and a wonderful array of gifts. The Cotton Bag Queen will be chosen on November 15 in Chicago. Contest details may be obtained from State Fair management or from the National Cotton Council, Box 18, Memphis, Tennessee. The Cotton Council will also send you ideas for entries in the contest.

Petticoat Lane

After washing your crinolin petticoat, turn it inside out, gather the bottom edges in your hand, and dip them into a medium or heavy starch solution. Hang the garment inside out to dry; then dampen these ruffles lightly and iron them. You save a lot of territory by concentrating on the bottom area that really does the fluffing-out job.

WATER SYSTEMS

(Continued from Page 9)

from each well so that livestock in any part of the farm would have access to a nearby source of runnning water in a conveniently located watering trough. This saved stock from having to walk long distances to drink from a single centrally-located source of supply.

It is something of a paradox that a farmer frequently will invest in piping and water outlets so livestock can have plenty of water to drink in the barn during the winter, forgetting that adequate sources in the pasturelands are just as important, because cows have need for a great deal more drinking water in hot and dry summer weather.

A thirsty cow should never have to wonder where her next drink of cool, clear water is coming from—and when.

FROZEN FOODS

(Continued from Page 13)

erage-size freezer up to 36 hours.

Chop the dry ice into pieces that will fit the storage compartments. **Never handle dry ice with bare hands—it may cause burns.** If there is food in the freezing compartment, move it quickly into the storage compartment before putting in the dry ice. Place the dry ice on boards (or cardboard) on top of the packages—do not place dry ice directly on the frozen food cartons. Do not open the freezer again until it is necessary to put in more dry ice or until the freezer has been in operation a few hours.

If dry ice is used, covering the freezer with blankets helps retard the rise of temperature in the freezer. But blankets alone have little or no effect. It will also help to put crumpled newspaper or excelsior between the cabinet and the blankets. **Caution: Pin coverings so that they will not cover the air vent openings.** The power may go on unexpectedly and ventilation will be needed.

If you are unable to work quickly enough with your frozen foods and they thaw, follow these rules:

1. *Fruits:* Fruits usually ferment when they start to spoil. A little fermentation will not make fruits dangerous to eat, but it may spoil their flavors. So you can refreeze thawed fruits if they still taste and smell good. Or use them in cooking and baking or for making jellies and preserves.

2. *Meats and poultry.* Meats and poultry become unsafe to eat when they start to spoil.

If the food still contains some ice, it may be safely refrozen, although the quality may suffer.

BUILD YOUR OWN FANS
For Barns, Houses or Crop Drying
SAVE UP TO 75%
Write for free literature
20-inch kits, $10.95; 24-inch, $12.95; 30-inch, $16.50; 36-inch, $23.95; 42-inch, $29.50; 48-inch, $32.50.
Fan Blades, Shutters & Motors
Buy Direct—Money Back Guarantee
ZEEFE MOTOR & TOOL CO.
1060 St. Clair Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio

NORTH CAROLINA REA

(Continued from Page 11)

of helping rural families get dependable telephone service. Since the telephone loan program was established in late 1949, up to the beginning of the year, REA had allocated a total of about $7,863,000 in telephone loans to ten borrowers in this State to provide service for 22,367 rural subscribers. Nationally a total of more than $208 million had been loaned to build dial telephone systems to serve about 456,500 rural subscribers in 42 states at the beginning of 1955.

KERR POWER

(Continued from Page 5)

power. That means selling it to VEPCO at rates far below what it is worth. There is no-one else to buy it.

At last month's Congressional Dinner (see page seven), North Carolina electric co-op leaders emphasized that this latest development in the Buggs Island stalemate points up the need for a new approach to the transmission problem.

J. A. Ward, president of Tarheel Electric Membership Association, pointed out that the North Carolina co-ops have long been willing to accept a wheeling agreement similar to the one VEPCO has put into effect. Under such an agreement, he said, the co-ops would receive title to the power from the government and would share in the economic benefits of the project.

"We are not alone in our concern over this matter," Ward said. "The North Carolina Grange has long sympathized with our problem, as expressed in its adopted policies. And last fall the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation showed its concern by resolving to ask Congress for funds aimed at bringing a Government transmission line from the dam to our systems."

Rural Exchange

Wanted to Buy

ADDRESS OUR CIRCULARS in longhand. Start immediately. $1 Brings Supply of Circulars. Hi-Way Furniture, Rantoul, Illinois.

MAKE EXTRA MONEY. Address, mail postcards. Spare time every week. BICORP, Box 174, Belmont, Mass.

For Sale

CHECK YOUR LAND for Uranium. New Geigerscopes. $3 each postpaid. Guaranteed to work. Leeway, Mountain View-CF-1, Oklahoma."

BUY SURPLUS FARM tools, machinery, truck, jeep, etc. Direct from Government. Send $1.00 for Government Surplus Bulletin, Box 2136, East Hartford, Conn.

SPECIAL OFFER! 100 big broiler chicks. $3.95; 200, for $7.00. Quick COD shipments. Rauch Chicks, Kleinfeltersville 112, Pennsylvania.

FOR SALE: SWEET potato plants—Porto Ricans, 500—$1.50; 1000—$2.50. Nancy Hall, 500 — $3.00; 1000 — $4.50. Bunch, 500—$4.00. Guaranteed Safe Delivery. Fred Stoker, Dresden, Tennessee.

LADIES WRITE TODAY. My amazing free pair nylon hosiery plan will save you money. Kermit Barnes, Route 4, Taylorsville, N. C.

NAME AND ADDRESS RUBBER stamp with ink pad. $1.00 postpaid. R. C. Savage Agency, 619 Rosemont Avenue, Wilmington, N. C.

Wanted to Buy

DO YOU HAVE an old auto stored away? Here's your opportunity to convert it into cash. Highest prices paid for early models. Also want steam-powered tractors. Write complete information, price wanted, to J. J. Malpass, Burgaw, N. C.

WATCHES WANTED. Any condition. Also broken jewelry, spectacles, dental gold, diamonds, silver. Cash sent promptly. Mail articles. Satisfaction guaranteed. Lowe's, Holland Building, St. Louis 1, Missouri.

COFFEE

(Continued from Page 23)

From one to three minutes later remove the coffee-maker from the burner. When the brew returns to the lower bowl take off the upper bowl and serve. Coffee should always be served as soon after brewing as possible. This goes for any type of appliance.

POSTCARD

Bellhop (making lady and gent comfortable): "Anything else, sir?"

Gent: "No, thanks."

Bellhop: "Anything for the wife?"

Gent: "Why, yes. Bring me a postcard."

* * *

Know-How

A passerby, attracted by the screams of a woman whose small boy had swallowed a quarter, seized the child by the heels, shook him a few times, and the coin dropped to the floor.

"You certainly know how to get it out of him," she said. "Are you a doctor?"

"No, madam, I'm from the Internal Revenue Bureau."

* * *

Not Exactly Straight

The insurance man had the signature on the dotted line and was getting ready to leave.

"Now that amounts to a premium of $6.90 per month on a straight life. That's what you wanted, wasn't it?"

"Well," said the customer a bit wistfully. "I would like to fool around a little bit on Saturday nights!"

* * *

PRETEND

Mother (to finicky child at table): "Eat it, dear—pretend it's mud!"

* * *

Just a Taste

The small boy was crying because the big friendly dog had bounded up to him and licked his hand. His frantic mother called to him:

"What happened? Did he bite you?"

"No," came the reply. "But he tasted me!"

* * *

A large sign printed on the mirror over the soda fountain of a southern California ice-cream shop reads: Soviet Sundae, 35c. All questions concerning its ingredients are g a i l y answered, "Nuts at the top!"

"Well, they have been a bit slow moving."

Hale!

Any fool can criticize and condemn, and most fools do!

* * *

Already Sick

Four-year-old Tommy plays with older boys who sometimes t r e a t him roughly. His father told him not to let the boys push him around. "If boys hit you, hit them back," he advised.

A few days later his aunt looked out of the window just in time to see Tommy about to hit another boy with an iron shovel. She cried: "Daddy didn't mean that you should hit other children with a shovel. You might hurt that little boy so much that he'll have to go to the doctor!"

"Oh, that's all right," replied Tommy, calmly. "He ought to go to the doctor, anyway. He's got a cold."

* * *

Never hit a man when he's down; he might get up again!

No Place Like Home

He had rather liked the look of her, and suggested a ride in his car. When they had gone a few miles, the girl said: "Now, before we drive any farther, I want you to understand that I don't flirt, so don't try to hold my hand or kiss me. Is that quite clear?"

The young man gulped and said, "Yes."

"Now," said the girl, brightly, "since that is settled, where shall we go?"

"Home," he murmured.

* * *

Still There

Two revellers in a bar were discussing life.

"I had the funniest dream last night," said one. "I dreamed that suddenly about a thousand little men were dancing on top of my body. They had pink caps and green suits and funny red boots that curled up in the front."

"Yes," agreed the other, "and there was a tinkly little bell at the toe of each of the boots."

"How do you know that?" said the first reveller in surprise.

"There are a couple of them still sitting on your shoulder," said the other.

* * *

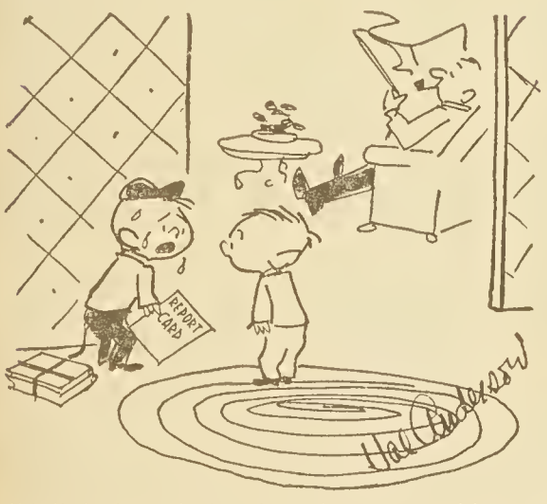
That's a Record

On a dark and stormy night the trainman was signalling to the engineer when he dropped his lantern to the ground. Another man passing by tossed it back to him on top of the boxcar. In a few minutes the engineer came rushing up.

"Let's see you do that again!" demanded the engineer.

"Do what?" said the trainman.

"Jump from the ground to the top of the boxcar!"



"A little knowledge *is* a dangerous thing—specially when it's as little as mine!"

EDITORIALS

Another May Day

May brings such pleasant things as balmy days and soft nights and girls in pretty cotton dresses. But also it seems always to bring news from Buggs Island to turn our heads from such pleasant contemplations.

It was in May four years ago, we recall, that CP&L President L. V. Sutton told a Senate sub-committee that his company would wheel power from the John H. Kerr Dam to 14 rural electric cooperatives. At the time, Mr. Sutton was opposing a government transmission line to the co-ops. The line was killed.

It was in May three years ago that the last real effort was made to get such a transmission line built. Not since 1952 has an administration requested appropriations for this purpose.

By May of 1953, 12 Virginia co-ops were getting their share of the Kerr Dam power: The Virginia Electric and Power Company had agreed to a wheeling contract—after Congress had authorized a transmission line from the dam to Langley Field. That left 60,000 kilowatts for sale to the co-ops in CP&L territory, when and if that company got around to following through on its promise.

In May of 1954, representatives of the North Carolina co-ops went to Washington to meet with Assistant Secretary of Interior Fred G. Aandahl—hoping to prod an obviously reluctant administration into action. Mr. Aandahl promised to begin negotiations with CP&L as soon as possible after his vacation in June. Six months later the co-ops and CP&L met in Mr. Aandahl's office—and got exactly nowhere.

And now May has come again, and with it the new and sorry development which we report on page five. Surely the matter has now degenerated to such a ridiculous state that something will be done.

If ever there was a time for a showdown on Buggs Island, this is it. The only party gaining by this wasteful stalemate is the Virginia Electric and Power Company — which was already getting a major share of the project's benefits.

Our North Carolina co-ops need those 60,000 kilowatts. Certainly the Federal Government needs the additional revenue which their sale to the co-ops would provide. And surely there is some man in our Congressional Delegation who is tired of seeing our power go to Virginia.

FARMERS UNION HERALD

TARHEEL VIEWS

By William T. Crisp

As reported on page seven, Tarheel Electric Membership Association held its annual Congressional Dinner in Washington last month. Over 150 of your directors and managers attended this occasion, the purpose of which was to bring the delegation up to date on our program and to discuss with them some of our legislative problems.

I wish that every person in North Carolina could have heard and seen the story which Mr. and Mrs. Ray T. Lee of Anson County told at this meeting. The Lees have a dairy and poultry farm near Ansonville. They have received service from Pee Dee Electric at Wadesboro for the past 15 years.

Their story, told by them in their own words and shown in colored pictures which we had taken on their farm, is the story of countless thousands who have experienced a whole new way of living since electricity has come to them. Here is just one part of their story which I think you'll find most interesting:

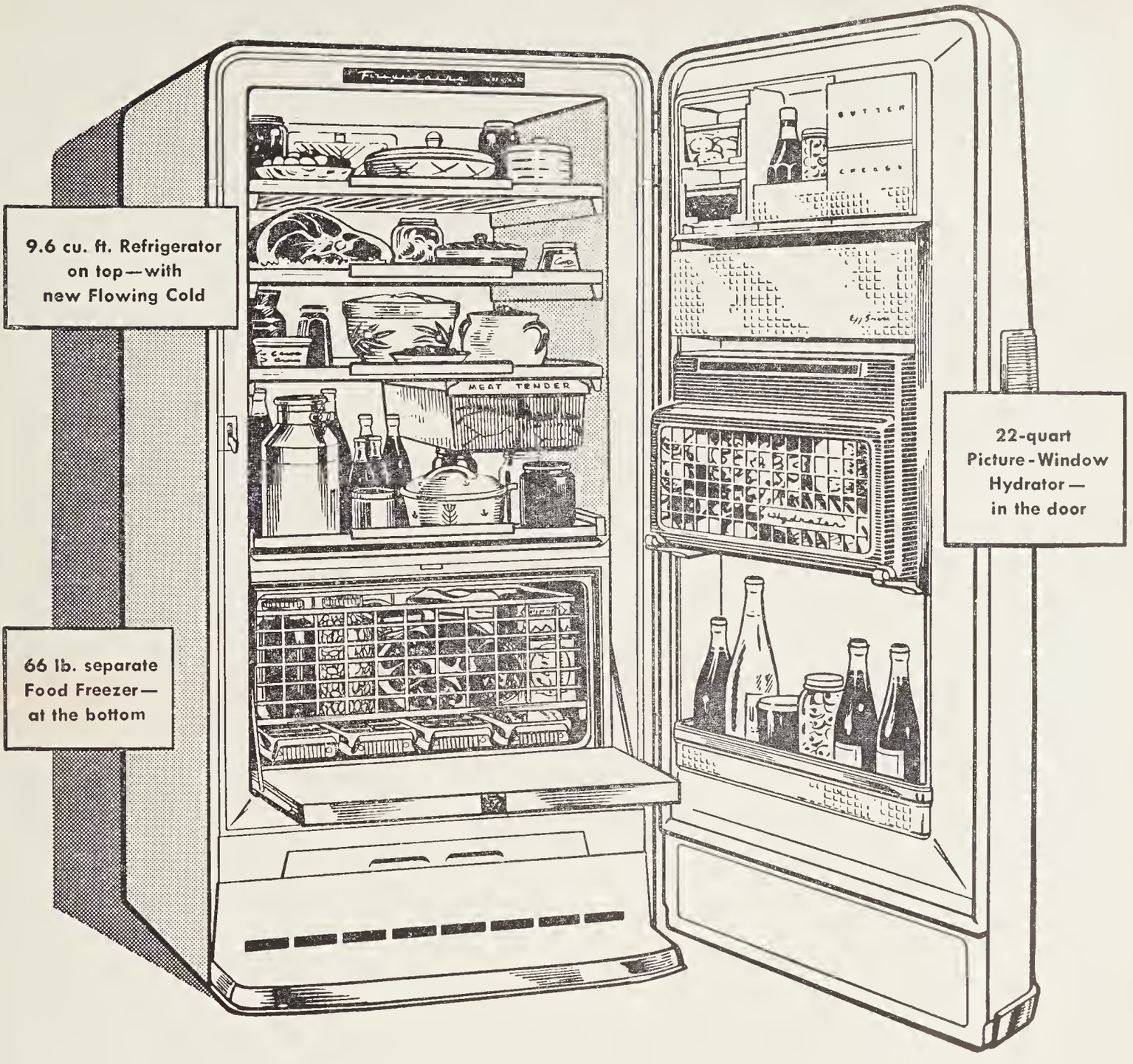
The Lees use an average of 894 gallons of water a day (321,840 gallons a year). Of course, they have an electric pump; otherwise they would never use that amount of water. But if they actually carried by hand the same amount of water which they now pump to their home and various outbulidings, they would walk a total of 3,237 miles a year. If one person did this job continuously around the clock, carrying two gallons of water per trip, it would take him 45 full days every year.

The cost of operating the Lees' water pump with electricity for one year amounts to the shocking amount of $4.80.

And here's another interesting part of their story: Before he got his electric milking machines (for a herd of 24 dairy cows), Mr. Lee got up at 4 o'clock every morning. Now he gets up at six. Of course, he saves two extra hours at the evening milking too. A little figuring will show that Mr. Lee's milking machines are saving him two full months a year on milking time alone.

The Lees' story, of course, covered many other things—as it always does. Let it suffice to say that it made quite an impression on our Congresisonal Delegation, without whose help the rural electrification program cannot continue to succeed. But fully as important as was the story told by this farm couple, was the fact that they told it to our delegation themselves.

Here's a giant 11.5 cu. ft. food freezer-refrigerator for your kitchen!



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